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ABSTRACT

This book for teachers, administrators, and central office staff provides guidelines for orchestrating and extending conversations among case users, with strategies for improving facilitators' effectiveness and a conceptual framework for understanding and acting in the role of facilitator. The book describes how to foster an entire professional development experience, not just a group discussion, using the case method. The case method offers groups a common text for exploring critical education issues. The facilitator is crucial in accessing the power of cases to maximize their potential for learning and reflection. The book includes four chapters. Chapter 1, "Introduction," explains what a case is, where cases are found, why it is important to use cases, and what case facilitation is. Chapter 2, "Facilitating the Case," examines advanced planning processes, structuring the case experience, and making strategic decisions. Chapter 3, "Facilitating the Group," explains how to get started, orchestrate discussion, incorporate variety, pace the discussion, and achieve closure. Chapter 4, "Managing Your Own Concerns," examines how to be in control of the discussion, share your point of view, and sort out what you do and do not know. An appendix presents a case about change from the perspective of a high school teacher working to bring his mathematics curriculum, instruction, and assessment in line with various reform guidelines. (SM)

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